

## **West Lake CAG meeting notes**

August 10, 2015

The CAG had two board members present, and roughly 40 people attended, not including EPA and USACE. ATSDR and St. Louis Co Health were present as well.

### **Elected officials present:**

Terry Briggs, mayor of Bridgeton  
Randy Hein and Linda Eaker, Bridgeton City Council  
Congressional staff for Rep. Lacy Clay, Sen. Blunt, Rep. Wagner  
Harvey Ferdman (for State Rep. Bill Otto)

### **Media present:**

Jacob Barker, St. Louis Post-Dispatch  
CD Steltzer, documentary producer and St. Louis journalist

The meeting started a few minutes late with regular business.

The letter from the Missouri CODEL to DOE was read into the record.

The CAG acknowledged the allegation by Exelon that additional RIM waste was dumped at WLL, but had not been provided any documentation to support the claim.

### **Technical Committee report:**

Ed Smith (Missouri Coalition for the Environment and West Lake CAG Technical Committee)  
Brad Vann (EPA Region 7)

Ed Smith discussed the meeting between USGS and EPA Region 7 about the groundwater study in July:

- Per USGS, there were several factors that could impact radium in groundwater.
- USGS is continuing to distinguish where groundwater impacts are coming from
- Ed cited the EPA as being “pretty good actor on environmental issues” (WOUS, Clean Air)
- Next focus of Tech Committee will be on the “odd isotopes from U235 decay chain in Landfill soil borings”

Brad: Current testing is around the ISO barrier area to better quantify the location and toxicity of RIM as a result of PRP finding additional material.

### **Q&A**

#### **Q. Has there been surface testing for the vegetation clearing?**

A. Limited spots are being cleared for samples. We’ve requested further tests to better quantify.

#### **Q. What is Republic Services doing around Banker Road in bean field behind Banker’s house? Looks**

like sampling.

A. Brad: I haven't been told about any sampling there.

**Q. Will there be deeper testing at BMAC than 2 inches down?**

A. Ed: We've asked for further testing, we'd like to see it, but they did some fairly in-depth testing. Gamma testing reaches about 12 inches deep.

Brad: Lead 210 occurs naturally. There was sampling along the drainage ditches. None of the sampling exceeded cleanup goals.

Harvey (from the audience): Don't let your kids play in the puddles or water at the parks.

**Q: When will the administrative record at the Library be updated?**

A: Brad: A contract has been awarded, should happen in August.

**Q: What determines what goes in the admin record?**

A: Brad: Decision documents from the ROD will go in the Admin record. (Any docs needed wby those without internet access, EPA Public Affairs or CAG volunteered to print and send.)

**Q: The comments from the three public meetings (responsiveness summary) in the Community Involvement Plan are not in the admin record.**

A: Brad: I'll look into getting the responsiveness summary added.

**Q: Can you comment on the documents from Exelon?**

A: Brad: Nobody brought us additional info. We're looking for more info through our sampling, to find where the RIM is and isn't, including groundwater and soil sampling.

**From C.D. Steltzer:**

**Q. Isn't DOE a PRP?**

A. Brad: They are one of four PRPs, part of the remedy decision.

**Q. Why isn't DOE responsible for the testing (Steltzer)**

A. Brad: Legally, DOE has no access to the site. The ROD was negotiated by the four PRPs (DOE, Republic (for the two subsidiaries they inherited the site from) and Exelon.

**Q. If DOE has FUSRAP, why not move West Lake to USACE?**

A. Ed: DOE determines if a site is FUSRAP. Their Office of Legacy Management also manages sites cleaned by FUSRAP.

Brad: If the site has been touched by a party, they can't walk away. EPA can't designate the site FUSRAP. Regardless, we all follow CERCLA.

**Q. When EPA puts the scope of the remedy together, are all parties there?**

A: Brad: All four PRPs would sign.

**Q: We've had days of the smells. Is this a result of the testing?**

A: The sampling drills a pretty small hole. That smell is most likely coming off the SSE. Our drilling is not in that area.

**From Doug Clemmons, CAG:**

**Q. Could there be a lawsuit if a party disagrees with the ROD? Could DOE or Republic sue EPA is they don't like the ROD?**

A: Brad: I'm not a lawyer, but anybody can sue anybody, but I can't speculate on how a federal agency suing another federal agency would work.

**Q. Can one PRP sue another and make this an even longer process?**

A: Ed: That's why we want this under FUSRAP: FUSRAP gets the ROD, executes the cleanup and pursues the PRPs later. We're also looking at the timeline impacts if FUSRAP takes over West Lake.

**Q. How is the smell still continuing?**

A. Doug: MODNR would have to address that. (explained division between Bridgton and SSE, West Lake and RIM). New director from DNR has directed Republic to go back and provide records from as far back as 2007 (pre-SSE.)

**Q. Where is the line between State and Federal Authority?**

A: Brad: If a state can't or won't handle a situation, the EPA could step in.

There was also brief discussion of the CAG's continuing desire for a one-mile radius buyout around WLL, and mention of the ongoing St. Louis Health Study (with expressed desire from members of the audience that an informal health study be conducted among Spanish Village residents.

The meeting wrapped up at about 9p.m.